

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A billing system comprising:

a server for sending a service program ~~stored~~ and ~~permission~~-information regarding a number of other terminals permitted to receive the service program over a communication network in response to a predetermined request; and

a plurality of terminals connected to the communication network, wherein one of the plurality of terminals behaves as a server terminal, the server terminal receives the service program and the ~~permission~~-information from the server via the communication network and distributes the service program to the other terminals via the communication network on the basis of the ~~permission~~-information, and the other terminals receive the service program from the server terminal via the communication network,

wherein the server charges the server terminal for the number of other terminals permitted to receive the service program.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The billing system according to claim 11, wherein the service program includes a server program that enables the one of the plurality of terminals to function as the server terminal.

14. (Currently Amended) A billing system comprising:

a server for sending a service program and ~~permission~~-information regarding a

number of other terminals permitted to receive the service program  
[[to]]over a communication network in response to a predetermined request;  
a plurality of terminals connected to the communication network, wherein one of  
the plurality of terminals behaves as a server terminal, the server terminal  
receives the service program and the ~~permission~~-information from the  
server via the communication network and distributes the service program  
to the other terminals via the communication network on the basis of the  
~~permission~~-information, and the other terminals receive the service program  
from the server terminal via the communication network; and  
a billing server for charging the other terminals for the distribution,  
wherein ~~each of the other~~ plurality of terminals that received the service program  
notify[[ies]] the billing server to charge for receiving the service program,  
and the billing server carries out a billing service in response to the  
notification.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The billing system according to claim 14, wherein the  
service program includes a server program that enables the one of the plurality of  
terminals to function as the server terminal.

17. (New) The billing system according to claim 11, wherein the plurality of terminals  
comprises an agent system for executing the service program and issuing a  
request for the service program.

18. (New) The billing system according to claim 17, wherein the server terminal  
receives the request for the service program each from the other terminals and

then distributes the service program to the other terminals.

19. (New) The billing system according to claim 11, wherein, based on information input by a user, the server terminal identifies the server, and sends the server the predetermined request that includes a name of the service program and the number of the other terminals to be permitted.
20. (New) The billing system according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of terminals comprises an agent system for executing the service program and issuing a request for the service program.
21. (New) The billing system according to claim 20, wherein the server terminal receives the request for the service program each from the other terminals and then distributes the service program to the other terminals.
22. (New) The billing system according to claim 14, wherein, based on information input by a user, the server terminal identifies the server, and sends the server the predetermined request that includes a name of the service program and the number of the other terminals to be permitted.